

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic processing device, comprising:
 - (a) a user interface to interact with a user;
 - (b) location detection electronics;
 - (c) processing electronics connected to the user interface and the location detection electronics;
 - (d) memory to store a plurality of functions/applications associated with a plurality of geographic regions, the memory connected to the processing electronics;
 - (e) a gatekeeper to allow access to at least one application/function only when the electronic processing device is within an associated one of the plurality of geographic locations based solely on the associated geographic location.

1 2. A method to access an application/function in an electronic
2 processing device, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
4 (b) entering a description of a first geographic location;
5 (c) associating at least one application/function of the electronic
6 processing device with the first geographic region;
7 (d) enabling a user to access the at least one application/function
8 of the electronic device only when the electronic device is in the
9 first geographic region based solely on whether the electronic
10 processing device is within the geographic region associated
11 with the at least one application/function.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a
2 first geographic region further comprises:
3 (a) obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics
4 within the electronic processing device; and
5 (b) creating boundaries by extending a selected distance from the
6 GPS location.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a
2 first geographic region further comprises:
3 (a) delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a
4 graphical user interface on a map containing the first
5 geographic region.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a
2 first geographic region further comprises entering the longitude and
3 latitude coordinates of the boundaries of the geographic region.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a
2 first geographic region further comprises entering a street address
3 associated with a geographic region.

1 7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 (a) entering a description of a second geographic region;
3 (b) associating a second application/function with the second
4 geographic region.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 (a) assigning a priority to the first and second geographic region.

1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 (a) assigning a priority to the first and second application/function.

1 10. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of enabling a user to access
2 information within the electronic device when the electronic device is
3 in the first geographic region further comprises determining the
4 present location of the electronic device using GPS signals processed
5 by GPS processing electronics within the electronic device.

1 11. A method to restrict access to an application/function of an electronic
2 processing device, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
4 (b) determining the present location of the electronic processing
5 device;
6 (c) invoking an application/function of the electronic processing
7 device;
8 (d) restricting access to the application/function of the electronic
9 processing device solely because the electronic processing device

10 is not within a geographic region associated with the
11 application/function; and
12 (e) sending a message to abort the application/function whenever
13 the electronic processing device is moved out of the associated
14 geographic region.

1 12. A method to protect an electronic processing device from unauthorized
2 use, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
4 (b) entering a description of at least one geographic location by a
5 method selected from the group of methods consisting of:
6 obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics
7 within the electronic processing device and creating boundaries
8 by extending a selected distance from the GPS location,
9 delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a
10 graphical user interface on a map containing the first
11 geographic region, entering the longitude and latitude of the
12 boundaries of the geographic region, and entering a street
13 address associated with a geographic region;
14 (c) invoking at least one application/function stored on the
15 electronic processing device;
16 (d) associating each of the at least one application/function with
17 one of the at least one geographic region;
18 (e) determining the present location of the electronic processing
19 device using GPS signals processed by GPS processing
20 electronics within the electronic processing device;
21 (f) assigning priority to the at least one geographic region;
22 (g) allowing the user to use the at least one application/function in
23 the at least one geographic region solely because the at least

24 one geographic region is the geographic region associated with
25 the at least one application/function;
26 (h) indicating that the electronic processing device has moved out
27 of the associated geographic region; and
28 (i) notifying a user that the application/function should be
29 aborted.

1 13. An article of manufacture, comprising a data storage medium tangibly
2 embodying a program of machine readable instructions executable by
3 an electronic processing apparatus to perform method steps for
4 operating the electronic processing apparatus, said method steps
5 comprising the steps of:

6 (a) storing a plurality of descriptions of geographic regions;
7 (b) storing a plurality of applications/functions, each associated
8 with one or more of the descriptions of geographic regions;
9 (c) assigning a priority to each of the plurality of descriptions of
10 geographic regions;
11 (d) determining the present location of the electronic processing
12 device; and
13 (e) allowing a user to use an application/function of the electronic
14 processing device in the present location solely because the
15 present location is within the description of the geographic
16 region associated with the application/function.

1 14. A secure electronic processing device, comprising:

2 (a) means to store a plurality of descriptions of geographic locations
3 in which said secure electronic processing device may be used;
4 (b) means to store a plurality of geographic-specific
5 applications/functions, each of said geographic-specific

6 applications/functions associated with at least one of said
7 geographic locations;
8 (c) means to determine the present location of said electronic
9 processing device;
10 (d) means to determine that said present location is one of said
11 geographic locations;
12 (e) means to invoke a geographic-specific application/function;
13 (f) means to allow access to the invoked geographic-specific
14 application/function solely because the present location is one
15 of said geographic locations associated with the invoked
16 application/function.

15. The secure electronic processing device of claim 14, wherein the
means to determine that said present location is one of said
geographic locations further comprises a GPS antenna and GPS
processing electronics.

16. The secure electronic processing device of claim 15, further
comprising means to abort the invoked application/function solely
because the present location is not one of said geographic locations
associated with the invoked geographic-specific application/function.